

**P-20 Council Meeting Notes**  
Buck Library, Buena Vista Conference Center  
New Castle, DE  
Monday, April 10, 2017

**Welcome**

State Board of Education Executive Director Donna Johnson welcomed Council members to the meeting. The meeting was called to order and a short overview of the agenda provided.

Members present: Donna Johnson, Susan Bunting, Kendall Massett, Ashley Dalzell-Gray, Janine Sorbello, Deb Stevens, Joanne Finnigan, Steve Yeatman, Stacey Laing, Mark DiMaio, Senator Dave Sokola, Jon Sheehan, Jim Wilson, Janine Sorbello, Patricia Seunarine, Justina Sapna and John Pelesko.

Others present: Michael Watson, Alison White, Kim Joyce, John Buckley, Kelly Sherretz, Shana Payne and Melissa Hopkins.

**P-20 Council Business**

Approval of Minutes

It was noted that a quorum of the Council was present. A motion was made by Ms. Stevens to approve the minutes from the special February meeting. The motion was seconded by Senator Sokola and carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Reports from P-20 Subcommittees on Reducing Remediation**

DOE Chief Academic Officer Michael Watson explained that the charge of the Subcommittees was to identify changes in policies and practice across high school and post-secondary education to eliminate remediation for all Delaware students entering the state's higher education institutions.

Mr. Watson and John Pelesko from the University of Delaware provided an update on the Math Remediation Subcommittee. The Subcommittee has identified key questions and examined placement systems from our institutions of higher education. They have also reviewed state policy and practices and are analyzing the data and will formulate recommendations. Review of the data is to develop a detailed common understanding of the size and scope of the mathematics remediation problem in Delaware. It was noted that 70% of Delaware's college-going students, go to college in-state with 85% of those students attend either Del Tech or the University of Delaware. It was explained that placement exam data from these two institutions, can assist in determining mathematics preparation of our college-going students and remediation. Mr. Pelesko stated that the challenge is full sharing of placement exam data from institutions of higher education and sharing of state level data from the Department to the P-20 Subcommittees.

Members of the P-20 Council discussed the challenge with the data sharing and it was asked if the P-20 needed to take any action. It was noted that the P-20 Council developed the MOUs for the data sharing.

Shana Payne from the Department of Education shared an update on the work of the Subcommittee for English Remediation. The institutions of higher education have agreed to implement multiple measures for student course placement and students who do not meet these measures prior to enrollment will complete a placement test. Delaware State University reformed their English remedial course to provide credit for students taking the course and allowing it to count towards graduation. The Subcommittee is also looking at support partnerships for writing instruction, curriculum design and teaching rhetoric and text structure. Partnership suggestions include creating an online college course repository for K-12 access (writing assignments, rubrics, etc), developing vertical alignment of professional development from middle school, high school, to post-secondary teachers, creating a checklist of strategies available to identify students who need support and compiling a list of resources that could be implemented to help support students.

Members of the P-20 Council discussed how dual enrollment and dual credit differs among districts, schools and higher education institutions. Ms. Payne noted that each school that participates in dual enrollment/dual credit has an agreement with the institute of higher education that they partner with. P-20 members also received a listing of the members of these subcommittees.

### **Presentation of Annual College Success Report**

Delaware's annual College Success Report uses statewide, school-level, and district-level data to highlight Delaware student remediation rates as well as the connection between high school rigor and college success. This March, Delaware released its 2017 College Success Report based on data from 2012 through 2015. Highlights of the report show that 41% of Delaware high school graduates entering a Delaware college will start several steps behind their peers. Delaware like other states in the nation have students that are graduating high school unprepared for the level of rigor necessary in college courses. Four recommendations in the report to eliminate remediation include:

- All students should graduate high school ready for college-level math courses.
- All students should graduate high school ready for college-level English courses.
- Provide targeted interventions prior to 11th grade for students not meeting college-ready benchmarks.
- Design an accessible and equitable K-12 system that ensures all students can succeed in college-level courses upon graduation.

Complete College America has found that fewer than 20% of students taking remedial courses complete a degree and more than 50% of students enrolling in a community college require remediation. Reducing remediation is a critical step to increasing college graduation rates and reducing the cost of attendance.

The P-20 Council members discussed the sequence of math courses in high school, noting that high school students are required to have four math credits. There was discussion on equitable access and target supports for students and benchmarks on proficiency prior to entering high school.

### **Continued Discussion of P-20 Statute, Existing Mission and Vision Statement**

The Council received a handout on the comments from the special meeting on each group addressing the areas of Mission and Vision, Goals, Research Agenda and Membership/Attendance. After each group addressed each of the areas feedback was presented to the Council. Ms. Johnson stated that the Council would be presented with what other states are doing with their P-20 Councils as well as research agenda questions and the formation of other subcommittees. There was discussion on the previous three subcommittees that dealt with data governance.

### **Closing/Next Meeting**

Dr. Bunting thanked the Council members for attending and for the rich conversation, dialogue and questions. She asked for suggestions for future topics. Ms. Johnson stated that a budget summary and legislative wrap up would be presented at the July meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m. The next meeting is July 10, 2017.